

## IDEA Fiscal Updates – 5/1/2015

### PAYMENT OF YEAR END CLAIMS:

Each year in June the processing of claims is shut down for a couple of weeks in order for the State to perform year end wrap up and rollover into the new year. This June, the State of Wisconsin will also be going through a software conversion. Due to this change, the claim processing will cease earlier than in past years so please be aware of the following information when filing June claims for any federal or state program.

- The last date DPI grant accountants will be allowed to process claims before the changeover is June 10<sup>th</sup>. No claims may be processed in the current system after that date, and all payments will be processed in the new system starting in July.
- If processed by June 10<sup>th</sup>, you should receive payment by June 22<sup>nd</sup>.
- **In order to guarantee receipt of payment by June 22nd, you must have your claim filed with DPI no later than June 1.**
- Grant Accountants will continue to process claims up until June 10th, but cannot guarantee yours will be processed if received later than June 1.
- Processing of claims will begin again in July. A reminder that all final claims from fiscal year 2014-15 must be submitted by September 30, 2015.
- Please do not call requesting your claim be processed. All claims will be processed in the order they are received.

We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause and will do our best to make payments as timely as possible. If you have questions regarding this information please contact Alan Virnig at [alan.virnig@dpi.wi.gov](mailto:alan.virnig@dpi.wi.gov) or 608-266-2428.

### UPDATED HIGH COST SPECIAL EDUCATION AID INFORMATION NOW AVAILABLE

LEAs serving students with higher-cost, lower-incidence disabilities should review DPI's updated information on the High Cost Special Education Aid program, available at <http://sfs.dpi.wi.gov/highcost-sped>. The program guidance document has been overhauled and expanded to provide more clarity, detail, and consistency on how the aid program works, which costs are eligible for reimbursement, and how it ties into IDEA Maintenance of Effort. There are a number of program changes from previous years, including:

- A definition for "actual, additional special education costs" eligible for High Cost Special Education Aid has been added.
- More cost categories are defined, such as construction or renovation, student-specific materials or supplies, and vehicle modification.
- Some contracted services eligible for Special Education and School-Age Parents Aid or IDEA funding are now also eligible for High Cost Special Education Aid.
- Tuition payments have been reorganized for greater consistency between private and public placements.
- Statutory provisions on which costs may or may not be claimed have been clarified.

Additionally, a worksheet is now available for LEA users to estimate High Cost Special Education Aid payments.

The updated program guidance will take effect with claims filed next year (2015-16) for this year's (2014-15) students. Claims filed this year were evaluated under the old guidance and payments are nearly finalized. Watch for updates to the High Cost claim software and further technical assistance on the program. In the meantime, please contact Daniel Bush at [daniel.bush@dpi.wi.gov](mailto:daniel.bush@dpi.wi.gov) or 608-267-9212 with questions.

#### **FY 2014-15 IDEA MOE COMPLIANCE**

As we begin to close out the fiscal year, it is imperative that LEAs go into the IDEA MOE eligibility report and use the scenario calculator to determine that projected expenditures are on target to meet compliance. Those LEAs that failed the eligibility test have been contacted and are making adjustments, but for all LEAs that passed MOE eligibility, the assumption is that MOE compliance will be met based on budgeted figures. Questions to ask are: Did the LEA budget for positions that were later not filled? Did the LEA budget for costly special education services that ended up not being needed? These are the types of "planned but not executed" expenditures that have caused LEAs to have issues with compliance in the past. If you would like to review your LEA's MOE compliance with Rachel Zellmer, please contact [marjorie.schenk@dpi.wi.gov](mailto:marjorie.schenk@dpi.wi.gov) to schedule a conference call.

#### **FY 2015-16 IDEA ALLOCATIONS AND BUDGET SOFTWARE**

The IDEA budget software for fiscal year 2015-16 is set to open the week of May 18. IDEA flow-through and preschool budgets and assurances for FY 2015-16 will be due by July 1, 2015. Additional technical assistance on the IDEA budget software will be released when the budget year opens.

Based on preliminary calculations, it appears that most LEAs will see a very slight reduction from this year in their IDEA flow-through allocations for next year.

The process and rules for the CEIS set aside will be changing for FY 2015-16, webinars on the topic will be held in late May and in June.